further infection. There were attacks of small-pox in some of the rural parts and towns. Nearly 1,50,000 vaccinations were done in rural parts, 51,000 in Mattancheri and 18,900 in Ernakulam.

Malaria.—On the advice of Dr. Ramsay, the Malarial Expert of the Ross Institute, who visited the State, new measures are being taken to tackle malaria. A Malariologist has been appointed for this purpose.

Child-Welfare Centres.—It is proposed to start 2 child-welfare centres, one at Ollur and the other at Cranganur, next year.

Vital Statistics.—A Statistician is proposed to be appointed to systematise and consolidate the registration of vital statistics.

Midwifery service.—The appointment of ten additional midwives was sanctioned in the current year, but only four could be entertained due to want of qualified hands. Including those appointed in the current year, the total number of midwives in the State comes to 71. The selection of another batch of candidates for midwifery training was also made during the year.

Radio.—Radio sets have been installed in ten Panchayats and the scheme is proposed to be continued next year also, for which a sum of Rs. 10,000 has been provided.

AYURVEDA

Taluk Hospitals and Vaidyasalas.—With the intention of extending medical aid all over the State through the Ayurvedic system, 5 Taluk Hospitals, with an in-patient ward of 10 beds attached to each, and 7 Vaidyasalas were opened during the course of the year. 3 Grant-in-aid Vaidyasalas were also converted into regular Government Vaidyasalas. It is gratifying to note that the new institutions are growing popular as can be seen from the large number of patients who resort to these institutions.

It is also proposed to start 5 more Vaidyasalas in 1120 in the rural areas. Increased provision has also been made in the next budget for larger supply of medicines to the Ayurvedic institutions and for strengthening the staff in the hospitals.

Sales Department.—The Sales Department is also growing in importance, which enables the public to get genuine medicines at cheaper prices. On an average medicines worth Rs. 4,500 have been sold each month. The transaction has resulted in a small gain to the Government.

DEPRESSED CLASSES

Admission to the Harijan Hostel, Ernakulam, has been raised from 20 to 30 students. Increased provision has been made in the Budget for 1120, with a view to raise the number of collegiate admission to depressed class pupils from 20 to 30. The question of giving financial assistance to depressed class candidates for pursuing higher studies outside the State is also under consideration.

LAND MORTGAGE BANK

The rate of interest on loans disbursed from the Land Mortgage Bank has been reduced from 6 to 5 per cent. The Bank has also been allowed to float debentures at 3 per cent, guaranteed by Government.

Till the end of Mithunam, during the current year, the Bank has received 150 loan applications and disbursed loans to the extent of Rs. 1,19,828.

CONCLUSION

I hope I have covered all the broad aspects of administration relating to my port-folio. Before I conclude, let me express my heart-felt gratitude to the members of this House for the kindness and co-operation they have extended to me in the administration of the Transferred Subjects. I have often profitted by the criticisms which this House had occasion to offer. It is my genuine hope that this House, which has never failed to strengthen my hands when-ever necessary, will continue to extend its valuable co-operation to my endeavours in an increasing measure and to guide me by helpful correction so that I may discharge my duties to the maximum advantage of the general public. I am also equally grateful to the Diwan for the genuine spirit of good-will and co-operation I have always received at his hands.

The trend of recent events in the theatres of war indicate that the day of Victory is not far off. Let us hope and pray that before the next Budget Session the world will find a new era of Peace and Prosperity.

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